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Post in an envelope to **OCEAN FINANCE**, Pacific House, Relay Point, FREEPOST MID 26399, Tamworth, Staffordshire B77 5BR. (no stamp required)

CALLS MAY BE RECORDED ALL RATES CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS LICENSED CREDIT BROKERS *SOURCE: DATA MONITOR UK SECURED LENDING 2004

McEvoy hurt in horror fall

KERRIN McEVOY could be back riding within a fortnight – despite suffering a nasty fall from Queen Of The Hill at Flemington in Australia on Saturday.

As he hit the deck, Queen Of The Hill and another horse stepped on him, causing a deep wound to his forehead, plus injuries to his eye and mouth.

McEvoy underwent successful cosmetic surgery and is likely to be discharged on Tuesday.



McEvoy: Had surgery

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WOLVERHAMPTON: 09055-141-603 (results 613)

STAR RACING

AT THE RACES

Calls cost 60p per min all times

TRACKFACTS Left-hand oval flat all under a mile. There is a run-in of two furlongs. Stalls today 71 Outside, Remainder Inside.

3.05 PRESS RED TO BET ON ITV HANDICAP Class 6 1m4f (12 runners) £2,917

| | | |
|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | WAR OWL (7)(C,A,F,G,S) | I Williams (6lb ex) 8 9 ... D Nolan (3) 41 |
| 2 | (6) PETITE PARLOUR (30)(A,G) | Miss G Kellaway 4 9 ... A Kirby (5) 21 |
| 3 | (5) STRETTON (31)(F,G,S) | J Bellah 7 9 4 ... G Gibbons 60 |
| 4 | 000202 | Noble Mind (6)(V) |
| 4 | (8) P Murphy 4 9 ... S Drowne 36 | M ODDS (28)(CD,C,D,A,G) |
| 5 | 32000 | M N Macaulay 9 9 ... P Makin 22 |
| 6 | 246000 | KING OF MUSIC (3)(A) |
| 7 | (2) PROTECTION MONEY (J15)(F) | G Prodromou 4 9 ... C Catlin 41 |
| 8 | 000000 | L Grassick 5 8 13 ... V Slattery — |
| 8 | (10) DON PASQUALE (19)(V,T) | JT Stimpson 3 8 12 ... R Miles (3) 62 |
| 9 | 243400 | Stef Liddiard 5 8 9 ... M Fenton 46 |
| 10 | 040400 | NEWCORP LAD (24)(F,G,P) |
| 11 | 000160 | Mr G Rees 5 8 9 ... A Culhane *66 |
| 11 | 165314 | C Horgan 4 8 ... O Urbina 41 |
| 12 | (4) TAXMAN (20)(F,P) | C British 3 8 ... F Norton 56 |
| 12 | 366212 | Star Betting— 3 Stretton, 4 War Owl, Taxman, 11-2 Ocean Rock, 12 Mi Odds, Elphina, 14 King of Music, 16 others. |
| 12 | 000000 | BEST DRAWN: King of Music (3), Petite Parlour (drawn 8) & Taxman (drawn 4) 29%. |
| 12 | 000000 | 2004: no corresponding race. |

STRETTON should prove best if adapting to the surface. He carries overweight as well as being 2lb heavier than his last win when running. *Therina* to a head at York (1m4f Class 4 h'cap good) with the 4lb gap to the third. Because he hasn't been racing since May, he needs to turn over off a 5lb lower mark. *War Owl* finally regained the winning thread when back Precious Mystery 4lb here (1m6f cl6 h'cap standard). He's won over 1m6f here off a 5lb higher mark, but her best form at that trip as at Southwell where the sand rides slower.

STARFORM won off a 1lb higher mark and if Precious Mystery wins the opener, his chance will be even more overextended. *Mr Odds* was a big race 70 days no-clare here, but his last two efforts have been appalling. *Elphina* has won over 1m6f here off a 5lb higher mark, but her best form at that trip as at Southwell where the sand rides slower.

STARFORM: STRETTON Danger: War Owl

3.40 TEXT BETDIRECT TO 88600 NOVICE STKS Class 5 200y (8 runners) £3,501

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | PORTERS (49)(D,F) | R Hannon 9 5 ... Dane O'Neill 46 |
| 2 | -51500 | Certain Circles (37)(V) |
| 3 | -100 | A Balding 9 ... Martin Dwyer 36 |
| 4 | 021300 | Luna Landing (51)(D,G) |
| 4 | 000000 | J O'Keeffe 9 ... Dale Gibson 54 |
| 5 | -032 | BOMBER COMMAND (14) |
| 5 | 000000 | E Ahern 48 |
| 6 | 000000 | DEAN'S YARD (77)(F,P) |
| 6 | -30 | Sir M Stouts 9 12 ... J P Spencer *56 |
| 6 | 000000 | MURRUMBIDGEEE (11) |
| 7 | 000000 | J Hills 6 12 ... S Drowne — |
| 7 | 000000 | TOUR D'AMOUR (29)(D,F) |
| 7 | 000064 | Stef Liddiard 8 11 ... M Fenton 45 |
| 8 | 000000 | LIGHT MOZART (11) |
| 8 | 000000 | C British 9 7 ... F Norton 56 |

Star Betting— 3 Certain Circles, 7-2 Bomber Command, 4 Porters, 9-2 Dean's Yard, 7 Luna Landing, 10 Tour d'Amour, 16 others. BEST DRAWN: Porters (drawn 2) 17%, Luna Landing (drawn 3) 16%, 2004: no corresponding race.

DEAN'S YARD continues to yield ground when 91 behind Mansfield in a 7f Leicester maiden, but can be judged on an earlier, 113rd to In the Fashion at Sandown (7f 14m cl6, good/firm), form which has been扶正 from his recent victories from the start and 4th efforts will find the all-round concession of 5f difficult the poor way he's should handle the surface.

STARFORM: DEAN'S YARD Dgr: Bomber Command

4.15 BET DIRECT HANDICAP Class 4 2m119yds (12 runners) £5,682

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | (4) GARDEN SOCIETY (8)(C,A,F,G) | T Clement (6lb ex) 8 10 4 ... A Kirby (5) 43 |
| 2 | (2) COME WHAT JULY (29)(C,A,F) | Mr N Macaulay 9 10 ... P Makin — |
| 3 | (1) TENDER TRAP (124)(A,F,G) | T Mills 7 9 ... I Mongan — |
| 4 | (3) SKYE'S FOLLY (17)(D,F,G) | Mr P Sly 5 9 3 ... M Fenton 43 |
| 5 | (7) ANNAMBO (93)(F) | D Morris 9 2 ... Dane O'Neill 70 |
| 6 | 002010 | TEMPLET (9)(S,B) |
| 6 | 000600 | W Garrison 5 8 13 ... D McGaffin 22 |
| 7 | 015141 | ELLINA (28)(C,D,A,F) |
| 7 | 000000 | J Pearce 8 12 ... J Quinn 46 |
| 8 | 000000 | WOTCHALICE (37)(S) |
| 8 | 000000 | R J Price 3 8 9 ... S W Kelly 45 |
| 9 | 000000 | NIGHT SIGHT (J33)(A,F,V) |
| 9 | 622060 | Mrs S Lammy 8 8 7 ... R Thomas (3) 67 |
| 10 | 000201 | Mrs I Taylor 7 8 7 ... C Catlin 32 |
| 11 | 000000 | POLAR DANCER (22)(G) |
| 12 | 000000 | H Steinmetz(GER) 4 8 7 ... N Callan — |
| 12 | 204100 | BEAUCHAMP TRUMP (11)(G,B) |

Long Handicap— Night Sight 8-9, 3-2 Monte Cristo, 8-9 Polar Dancer 8-0.

Star Betting— 4 Garden Society, 9-2 Ellina, 5 Skye's Folly, 6 Beauchamp Trump, 13-2 Monte Cristo, 8 Annambo, 10 others.

BEST DRAWN: Come What July (dr 2), Ellina (dr 6) & Tender Trap (dr 1) 33%, 2004: Intrepid Jack, 9-0, (S Drowne, 7-1) H Morrison, dr (4), 11 ran.

STARFORM: JIMMY THE GUESSER Dgr: Rapsgate

2.30 E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES (DIV 2) Class 5 210y (6f (12 runners) £3,786

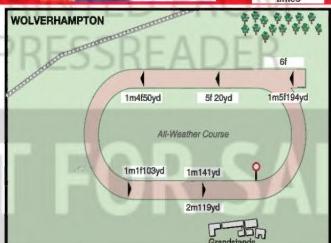
| | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | (3) ALISTAIR JOHN(T) | Mrs G Rees 9 0 ... Dean McKeown — |
| 2 | (10) CHARMING BALLET (62) | N Litton 9 0 ... J Quinn 38 |
| 3 | (9) MIGHTY DANCER (19) | S Kirk 9 0 ... Dane O'Neill — |
| 4 | (8) OBERGURGL (23) | Mrs A Duffed 9 0 ... A Culhane — |
| 5 | (7) WEDNESDAY BOY (6) | P Niven 9 0 ... P Mulrennan (3) — |
| 6 | (4) ALWARIAH (18) | M Blanchard 8 9 ... D Sweeney 26 |
| 7 | (2) BALIK PEARLS (24)(B*) | M Tebbutt — |
| 8 | (6) IMPERIAL GEM (21) | D Burchell 8 9 ... M Tebbutt — |
| 9 | (5) LISFANNON (19) | R Guest 8 9 ... C Catlin — |
| 10 | (4) MELODY MAKER (9) | W H Burrell 8 9 ... J P Spencer 47 |
| 11 | (11) TEQUILA ROSE (45) | A Bailey 8 9 ... I Mongan 34 |
| 12 | (7) VINO | K May 7 — |

Star Betting— 2 Lisfannon, 5 Charming Ballet, Balik Pearls, Melody Maker & Alwariyah, 1 Imperial Gem, 16 Vino, 20 others.

BEST DRAWN: Alwariyah (dr 4) 17%, Tequila Rose (dr 11) 9%, 2004: Petrie Spectre, 8-9, (D O'Neill, 14-1) R Hannan, drawn (4), 10 ran.

STARFORM: LISFANNON Dgr: Melody Maker

STARFORM: TEQUILA ROSE Dgr: I Mongan



4.45 TONIGHT ON SKYTEXT 293 H'CAP (DIV 1) Class 6 1m1f103yds (13 runners) £2,581

| | | |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | (2) BAND (77)(C,D,A,F) | E Williams (6lb ex) 8 9 ... G Gibbons 37 |
| 2 | (12) BIRSKA KING (28)(C,D,A,F,S,P) | J Moffatt 5 9 1 ... P Mathers (5) 28 |
| 3 | (11) STEVEDORE (29)(F,G,S) | 202010 |
| 4 | (3) PRINCE OF GOLD (24)(A,F) | J Doyle 4 9 1 ... J P Spencer *62 |
| 5 | (5) SHAHER (21) | 555466 |
| 6 | (6) HARRIER (31) | Mrs L J Morgan 3 8 13 ... I Mongan 58 |
| 7 | (9) LEGACY (52)(F) | RJ Price 4 6 13 ... J Doyle (7) — |
| 8 | (0) 000000 | T Clement 5 8 13 ... A Kirby (5) 50 |
| 9 | (4) TREVIANO (28)(A,G) | 212020 |
| 10 | (1) B MOBO-BACO (8)(F) | J Bellah 4 9 2 ... Done O'Neill 51 |
| 11 | (7) M/W Easterly (21)(F,G,S) | 062432 |
| 12 | (1) DAB MAC (91)(B,F,S) | 063124 |
| 13 | (13) LAGHISH (48) | 642256 |
| 13 | (13) (13) E Ahern 48 | 064030 |

Star Betting— 5-2 Band, 6-2 Queenie Wings, 7 Stevedore, 8 Zarava, 10 Mrs L J Morgan, 12-10 HARRIER, 13-13 Legacy, 14-14 Done O'Neill, 15-15 Treviano, 16-16 Dab Mac, 17-17 MoBo-Baco, 18-18 Hashim, 19-19 Shaheen, 20-20 Prince of Gold, 21-21 Haggas, 22-22 Haggas, 23-23 Zarava, 24-24 Stevedore, 25-25 Queenie Wings, 26-26 Zarava, 27-27 Dab Mac, 28-28 Hashim, 29-29 Shaheen, 30-30 E Ahern, 31-31 Zarava.

BEST DRAWN: Shaheen (drawn 5) & Riska King (drawn 12) 14%, 2004: Del Mar Sun, 5-8-13, (P Hanagan, 14-1) W Haggas, drawn (12), 13 ran.

STARFORM: HARRIER Dgr: E Ahern

STARFORM: LEGACY Dgr: J Doyle

STARFORM: TREVIANO Dgr: A Kirby

STARFORM: B MOBO-BACO Dgr: S Drowne

STARFORM: DAB MAC Dgr: J Bellah

STARFORM: HASHIM Dgr: W Haggas

STARFORM: SHAHEEN Dgr: E Ahern

STARFORM: PRINCE OF GOLD Dgr: J P Spencer

STARFORM: STEVEDORE Dgr: G Gibbons

STARFORM: HARRIER Dgr: I Mongan

STARFORM: LEGACY Dgr: J Doyle

STARFORM: TREVIANO Dgr: A Kirby

STARFORM: B MOBO-BACO Dgr: S Drowne

STARFORM: DAB MAC Dgr: J Bellah

STARFORM: HASHIM Dgr: W Haggas

STARFORM: SHAHEEN Dgr: E Ahern

STARFORM: PRINCE OF GOLD Dgr: J P Spencer

STARFORM: STEVEDORE Dgr: G Gibbons

STARFORM: HARRIER Dgr: I Mongan

STARFORM: LEGACY Dgr: J Doyle

STARFORM: TREVIANO Dgr: A Kirby

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STARFORM: DAB MAC Dgr: J Bellah

STARFORM: HASHIM Dgr: W Haggas

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STARFORM: DAB MAC Dgr: J Bellah

STARFORM: HASHIM Dgr: W Haggas

STARFORM: SHAHEEN Dgr: E Ahern

STARFORM: PRINCE OF GOLD Dgr: J P Spencer

Champions of the turf



TOP JOCKEY: Jamie Spencer celebrates with wife Emma, having also won the Irish title last season



AAH! Saleem Golam and Hayley Turner share the apprentices' title with 44 winners apiece.

DAILY BOOKIE BASHER
STAR

TWO MORE WINNERS YESTERDAY. So, for the day's three best bets and a simple staking plan, just dial:

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TELL-TALE TABLES

FLAT TRAINERS - Final list

| | Last | Wins | % | 14 days | Estate |
|--------------|------|------|------|------------|------------|
| Sir M Stoute | 95 | 22 | 52.1 | 2,296,666 | £2,296,666 |
| A P O'Brien | 20 | 19 | 0.0 | 2,008,892 | £2,008,892 |
| R Hannan | 135 | 11 | 4.0 | £1,932,610 | £1,932,610 |
| M Bonham | 109 | 11 | 4.0 | £1,902,400 | £1,902,400 |
| B Hills | 108 | 16 | 2.3 | £1,831,725 | £1,831,725 |
| S bin Suuro | 77 | 19 | 2.6 | £1,515,432 | £1,515,432 |
| J Gosden | 91 | 19 | 3.0 | £1,487,580 | £1,487,580 |
| M Jarvis | 55 | 14 | 2.6 | £1,330,027 | £1,330,027 |
| M Channon | 10 | 216 | 5.1 | £1,292,552 | £1,292,552 |

FLAT JOCKEYS - Final list

| | last | wins | % | 14 days | estate |
|-------------|------|------|------|---------|------------|
| J P Spencer | 10 | 95 | 22 | 52.1 | £2,296,666 |
| S Sanders | 141 | 14 | 1.4% | +1 | £2,008,892 |
| R L Moore | 120 | 12 | 1.3% | -322 | £1,932,610 |
| R Hughes | 116 | 15 | 2.0 | -79 | £1,902,400 |
| R Winston | 98 | 16 | 0.0 | -131 | £1,831,725 |
| N Callan | 12 | 2 | 2.5% | +20 | £1,515,432 |
| L Dettori | 87 | 18 | 3.4% | -96 | £1,487,580 |
| J Fortune | 87 | 13 | 5.1% | -129 | £1,292,552 |

WOLVERHAMPTON INDEX

| W-Wolverhampton | Hishima | W 4.45 | Porters | W | 3.40 |
|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|
| Active... | W 1.20 | Imperial Gem | W 2.30 | Precious Mystery | W |
| Alexander Sapph... | W 1.20 | Goldiron | W 2.30 | Protection Gold | W 4.45 |
| Alistair John... | W 2.30 | Jimmy The Guesser | W 1.20 | Protection Money | W 4.05 |
| Alvarez... | W 1.20 | W 1.20 | W 1.20 | Qualifair Wings | W 4.45 |
| Annambo... | W 4.15 | Lawsheeb | W 5.15 | Riska King | W 4.45 |
| Artful Whisper... | W 5.15 | Legacy | W 4.45 | Risk Free | W 5.15 |
| Baby Barry... | W 5.15 | Legend | W 4.45 | Rise | W 4.45 |
| Balki Peals... | W 5.15 | Legends | W 4.45 | Rise | W 4.45 |
| Band... | W 4.45 | Lifeforce | W 4.45 | Sanbury Lad | W 2.90 |
| Barnes Spy... | W 5.15 | Lightning | W 1.55 | Shahera | W 4.45 |
| Beauvoir Trump... | W 5.15 | Luna Landing | W 3.40 | Shahera | W 4.45 |
| Big For Fame... | W 1.20 | Magical Pearl | W 4.45 | Shahera | W 4.45 |
| Bomber Command... | W 3.40 | Melody Maker | W 2.30 | Protection Money | W 4.45 |
| Cameo... | W 1.20 | Midnight Dancer | W 3.40 | Sirolgy | W 4.45 |
| Capistrano... | W 1.55 | Midnight Dancer | W 3.00 | Stolen Song | W 1.20 |
| Certain Circle... | W 3.40 | Mistake | W 1.55 | Templet | W 3.00 |
| Charming Ballet... | W 2.30 | Mistake | W 4.45 | Tempter | W 3.00 |
| Champion One... | W 1.20 | Mystique | W 4.45 | Tempter | W 3.00 |
| Colonel Billo... | W 5.15 | Murimbidgee | W 3.40 | Tender Grace | W 4.15 |
| Come What July... | W 4.15 | Newport Lad | W 3.05 | Tour d'Amour | W 3.40 |
| Darren... | W 1.20 | Obeying | W 3.05 | Treviann | W 3.05 |
| Dara Mac... | W 4.45 | Noble Mind | W 3.05 | Umbra | W 2.30 |
| Darko Karim... | W 1.20 | Obergen | W 2.30 | War Owl | W 3.05 |
| Desire... | W 1.20 | One Rock | W 1.20 | Western Roots | W 5.15 |
| Don Pasquale... | W 3.05 | Our Choice | W 1.20 | Wise Tale | W 5.15 |
| Ehrina... | W 3.05 | Paddy's Place | W 1.55 | Western Roots | W 5.15 |
| Ellina... | W 4.15 | Pearning Cinta | W 1.55 | Zarova | W 4.45 |
| Fortiscombe... | W 4.45 | Pearling Cinta | W 1.55 | Zarova | W 4.45 |
| Garden Society... | W 4.45 | Pearling Cinta | W 1.55 | Zarova | W 4.45 |
| Harare... | W 4.45 | Polar Dancer | W 4.15 | ■ No horses to note today | |

Fab four for Dobbin

TONY DOBBIN (right) stole the show at Ayr yesterday with a four-timer courtesy of Rasharrow, Silver Jack, Momet's Garden and Programme Girl. Rasharrow, winner of two of his three bumpers, had impressed on his jumping debut at Kelso and was a 1-5 chance to double up in the Alan Mackay Insurance Introductory Novices' Hurdle.

But he had to battle to see off 100-1 outsider First Look, forcing trainer Len Lungo to say: "I think the second could be a very good horse, they came 19 lengths clear of the third, though I do think our fellow would prefer quicker ground."

Momet's Garden a high-class hurdler, proved far too good for his rivals on his debut over fences.



BEEF STILL ON FOR HAYDOCK

MICHAEL HOURIGAN'S traumatic weekend was completely ruined yesterday when Beef Or Salmon was withdrawn just minutes before the start of the November Handicap at Leopards-town.

The nine-year-old had been reburied to the two-mile Flat race after the James Nicholson Wine Merchant Champion Chase was lost on Saturday due to a bomb warning at Down Royal.

"He's fine. It's just a little, minor problem, nothing serious," said Hourigan.

"It's still Haydock next for the Beef Chase, all being well."

Hoax

The bomb alert, which forced the abandonment of Down Royal's biggest meeting of the year, was finally declared an elaborate hoax by the police yesterday.

A crowd of around 9,000 had gathered for the second day of the Northern Ireland Festival of Racing, set to feature a clash between Beef Or Salmon and rising star War Of

Attrition, but they only saw the first two races.

Unfortunately, heavy rain has caused the abandonment of two more meetings – those scheduled for today at Stratford and Carlisle.

Both tracks are waterlogged.

Return

Nigel Twiston-Davies' exciting young chaser Fundamentalist is not likely to make his racecourse return before Christmas.

At this time last season, connections were looking forward to a bountiful season with the gelding, only for the son of Supreme Leader to pick up a leg injury which ruled him out for the remainder of the campaign.

"He's back in work and going really well but I want

Attrition, but they only saw the first two races.

Unfortunately, heavy rain has caused the abandonment of two more meetings – those scheduled for today at Stratford and Carlisle.

Both tracks are waterlogged.

RACING ROUND-UP



TWISTON-DAVIES: Wait

to give him every chance and I doubt he'll run again this side of Christmas," said Twiston-Davies.

"Fortunately it was a very minor tendon injury and he's got youth on his side."

London trainer Andrew Reid reckons he has just the right horse to follow in Eccentric's hoofprints on the Lingfield sand this winter – Freddy!

Eccentric won five times on the Polytrack but his plans include visits to Japan and Dubai.

Freddy was a Group 1 star in Argentina in 2002 but proved a flop in California.

He's back in work and going really well but I want

Attrition, but they only saw the first two races.

Unfortunately, heavy rain has caused the abandonment of two more meetings – those scheduled for today at Stratford and Carlisle.

Both tracks are waterlogged.

LONGEST TRAVELLER

Horse (time & course) Distance
Tempet (1m 20s) 1m 20s
Music of Music (1m 20s) 1m 20s
Silene (1m 20s) 1m 20s
Sirology (1m 20s) 1m 20s
Obergurk (1m 20s) 1m 20s
Luna Landing (1m 20s) 1m 20s

■ WISE TALE (1m 20s) 1m 20s
RENU (1m 20s) 1m 20s
POLYPODAL (1m 20s) 1m 20s
KING OF THE FOREST (1m 20s) 1m 20s
MIDNIGHT LACE (1m 20s) 1m 20s

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CRICKET: England batsmen flop again

ASHES TO CRASHES

OPENER Andrew Strauss admitted England must learn to read wickets better after their batting crumbled again just a week before the first Test against Pakistan.

Skipper Michael Vaughan got it hopelessly wrong by electing to bat first against Pakistan A in Lahore.

Vaughan expected a first-day pitch packed with runs but England struggled to 126 on a grassy surface in muggy conditions ideal for seam bowling.

At least the tourists took some consolation by reducing the home side to 127-8, with Matthew Hoggard capturing the top four Pakistan batsmen.

After conquering the Australians to win the Ashes, England's batting form is causing concern, with only Marcus Trescothick having played a major innings so far on the tour.

Tumble

England were 53-7 before a late flourish at least brought the semi-respectability of three figures.

There are clearly worries for coach Duncan Fletcher, who saw his side tumble to 60-6 and 46-7 in their first match last week against a Patron's XI before squeezing out a narrow, face-saving win.

Strauss sounded unhappy with Vaughan's decision.

"So far this tour, we have suddenly been four or five down before we realise 'Oh, actually this isn't all that great a wicket,'" he said.

"But it isn't panic stations yet. We have played in conditions similar to this in England and abroad and we should be good enough to react to them and score more than 120."

"We looked at the wicket in the morning and it actually looked pretty good.

"Maybe we got lulled into thinking the ball was going to come on better than it actually did," Strauss suggested.

"Suddenly we were three or four down and behind the eight-ball a little bit.

"There is no reason why you can't score runs on this sort of wicket but it does take a little bit of



EARLY VICTIM:
Andrew Strauss is sent on his way by Pakistan A's Shahid Nazir

■ by RODNEY WHITE

England, somewhat belatedly, worked out the conditions.

The team England are expected to field in the first Test was eventually baled out by a stand of 34 between Ashley Giles and Shaun Udal.

That helped the last three wickets more than double what was still a way under-par total.

"We are not overly happy with our batting performance but there is no doubt that the wicket did assist the bowlers," said Strauss.

Clatter

Six England batsmen were either caught in the slips or by the wicketkeeper.

It was after the clatter of seven wickets that

SCOREBOARD

| England First Innings | |
|---|-------------------|
| Trescothick c Asif | 8 |
| Strauss c Young b Nazir | 5 |
| Vaughan c Young b Asif | 17 |
| Pietersen c Amir-ur-Rehman b Nazir | 4 |
| Collingwood c Youself b Asif | 0 |
| Fletch c Youself b Asif | 0 |
| Jones b Asif | 0 |
| Farhat b Asif | 21 |
| Udal c Umar b Asif | 23 |
| Hoggard c Youself b Asif | 1 |
| Morgan c Amir-ur-Rehman b Asif | 18 |
| Harrold lbw b Nazir | 10 |
| Total (35.1 overs)..... | 126 |
| Fast bowlers..... | 54.5-12.8-38.8-11 |
| Bowling: Nazir 10-5-18-2, Asif 16.1-2-62-7, Arshad Khan 1-0-2, Khalil 8-1-40-1, | |
| Pakistan A First Innings | |
| Farhat b Umar..... | 23 |
| Umar c & b Hoggard | 6 |
| Afzal c G Jones b Hoggard | 0 |
| Youself c Farhat | 10 |
| Raza Ibs b Giles | 34 |
| Amjad b Collingwood | 7 |
| Amir-ur-Rehman c Flintoff b Giles | 32 |
| Shaun Udal c Giles | 0 |
| Nazir not out | 6 |
| Asif not out | 1 |
| Giles not out..... | 127 |
| Total (35.1 overs)..... | 127 |
| Fast bowlers..... | 54.5-12.8-38.8-11 |
| Bowling: Hoggard 8-0-39-4, Harrison 9-0-44-0, Collingwood 4-1-14-1, Flintoff 5-1-124, Giles 4-1-14-3. | |

SPORTWORD

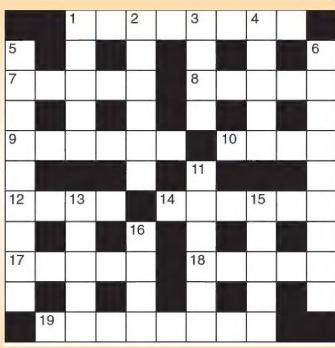
ACROSS

1. Darren member of Great Britain's 4 x 100 metres relay, gold medal team at the 2004 Olympics (8)
2. Woods, famous golfer (5)
3. Kel Open golf champion in 1960 (5)
4. Broncos, rugby league team (6)
5. Placid, Winter Olympics venue in 1980 (4)
6. Bob US PGA golf champion in 1986 (4)
7. Sir Richard former Notts and New Zealand fast bowler (6)
8. Lady Oaks winner in 1996 (5)
9. Silvio Croatian forward once with Newcastle United (5)
10. Ashton Villa, Wolves, WBA and Scotland striker (4,4)
11. Carlton Stockport County and Mansfield Town manager (6)
12. Hughes, Aston Villa and Northern Ireland defender (5)
13. Holmes, former world heavyweight champion (5)
14. Stevens, American jockey (4)
15. Hughes, Aston Villa and Northern Ireland defender (5)
16. Holmes, former world heavyweight champion (5)
17. Stevens, American jockey (4)

DOWN

1. Pascal Arsenal defender (5)
2. Walsall FC manager (6)
3. Sinclair, home of Lincoln City (4)
4. Jose boxer who became WBC featherweight champion in 1968 (5)
5. Sport of Linford Christie (9)
6. Point, Derby winner in 1987 (9)
7. Carlton Stockport County and Mansfield Town manager (6)
8. Hughes, Aston Villa and Northern Ireland defender (5)
9. Holmes, former world heavyweight champion (5)
10. Stevens, American jockey (4)
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17. Hughes, Aston Villa and Northern Ireland defender (5)
18. Holmes, former world heavyweight champion (5)
19. Stevens, American jockey (4)

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BOXING: Warren won't rush the title charge



IT'S 'L' FOR LEATHER:
Learner Amir Khan celebrates after battering Gethin (inset)

AMIR KHAN is not ready to throw away his 'L' plates yet despite a whirlwind start to his pro career.

Promoter Frank Warren insists the Olympic silver medallist is still on a 'learning curve'.

Khan is only 18 but there are loud calls for him to be thrown into a title fight soon.

His third-round light-weight success over Steve Gethin in Glasgow's Braehead Arena on Saturday left Warren facing more demands for the Bolton fighter to move to a higher level after only three paid fights.

But Warren took his time guiding Naseem Hamed and Ricky Hatton to the top of the world.

And he won't be rushed into making any rash matches for the rising

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

star, saying: "There are a lot more things I would like to see from Amir."

"I would like to see him take his time a bit more in the ring and plant his feet but that will happen as he matures."

Fighters like Gethin are the type of opponents all boxers face in the early stages of their careers.

Advice

"The objective is that he will fight for a title in the next couple of years. We just have to keep picking the right opponents."

"At the moment he is fighting journeymen opponents who usually last the distance and Amir is doing a bit of a job on them."

Khan looked convincing against Gethin but it's clear that he still has a lot to learn after a fight in which he repeatedly looked to his corner for advice.

His next outing will be on the Audley Harrison-Danny Williams undercard at London's Excel Arena on December 10 and Warren will handicap the opponent.

He said: "Amir is coming along well but the Excel fight will be another learning curve. You just can't rush things."

Khan will take a long, hard look at Saturday's fight to pick out the good points - and the bad.

He said: "I haven't seen the video yet but I'll look at that and see what I might have done wrong."

"Gethin was strong and fighting back every time I hit him. In the amateurs they just curl up when you hit them. This guy came fighting back."

Weigh to go, Scott

SCOTT HARRISON has been urged to give up his WBO featherweight title by his manager Frank Maloney.

The Cambuslang bruiser is finding it increasingly difficult to get down to the 9st weight limit and looked drained as he outpointed Aussie Nedal Hussein in Glasgow on Saturday.

Harrison has now been ordered to defend against the highly-rated Joan Guzman but Maloney said:

"Scott wants the Guzman fight but I think he should move up to super-featherweight."

A move up to that division would give Harrison, 28, an invaluable extra 4lbs to play with. He said: "If they can get me a super-featherweight title then I would definitely move up, but I can still do featherweight perfectly and do 12 rounds like I showed against Hussein."

TAKE YOUR TIME AMIR

Lacy: I want Joe

UNBEATEN American Jeff Lacy sent a chilling warning to super-middleweight rival Joe Calzaghe after stopping Scott Pemberton in two rounds.

After beating Pemberton in Nevada, IBF champ Lacy told WBO holder Calzaghe to come to America and get their unification fight back on.

He said: "I still want to fight Calzaghe but I'm not going to go over there for him to pull out again."

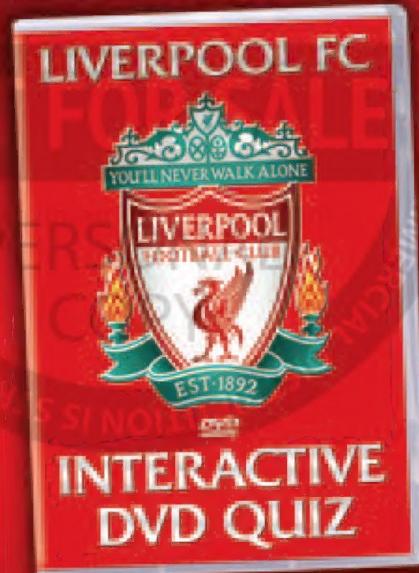
5 FOR FUN

- 1 Paul Gascoigne is the new manager of which non-League club?
- 2 Who has won golf's European Order of Merit for the eighth time?
- 3 Who scored for Chelsea after only eight seconds of the 1997 FA Cup Final?
- 4 What fielding position can also be a channel or ravine worn by water?
- 5 Randwick is a top horse racing venue in which country?

Answers: Page 49

THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THE KOP?

Test your knowledge with the ULTIMATE Liverpool FC Interactive Quiz!



1. Who Said this:
"If you are first you are first. If you are second you are nothing?"
2. What was remarkable about Kenny Dalglish's first three seasons as a player at Liverpool?
3. Against which team did Steven Gerrard score his first England goal?

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LEGENDS OF POKER

We've written about the world's most famous gambler, Amarillo Slim Preston, a number of times. Over the weeks it has provoked a handful of entertaining questions which we've decided to tackle all at once.

Q1: Is it true Amarillo made so much money he owns a string of thoroughbred racehorses as well as prize cattle?

A1: Absolutely. The stockmen who tend his animals often boast they can ride for three days without reaching the border fence of Slim's ranch. He's famously on record himself as sounding a warning about owning thoroughbreds. "You should never have a hobby that eats!"

Q2: Is it true that the snakeskin band that winds around Slim's famous Stetson has emerald green eyes and belonged to a rattle snake that nearly killed him?

A2: True! Slim's head stockman shot the snake shortly after it bit Amarillo's hand and promptly skinned the critter on the spot. Slim wears the snakeskin head band as a lucky charm, having survived the normally deadly bite. It's also true that the rough cut emerald rocks which button his monogrammed shirts were chosen to match the snake's eyes and that he has Waterford crystal chandeliers in his barn. Add to this his Olympic size swimming pool with a royal flush emblazoned across its tiles and you begin to get the picture of a man who's proud of his craft and the rewards it can bring.

Q3: Did he really win millions of dollars on one bet?

A3: Yes! He bet on the outcome of the 1968/9 Super Bowl and won!

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QUOTE of the weekend from Paul Gascoigne: "I would like to apologise to all the managers I played for. I was crap and it must have been a nightmare for them." *It was Gazza, but we loved every minute.*

Crouch ain't no banker

THERE is no doubt that Sven Goran Eriksson wants to take Peter Crouch to the World Cup.

I just don't get it and have debated this at length with the England coach.

He sees the lamp-post striker as an alternative when things are going wrong in a game.

But I just don't see how you can take a striker to Germany who is not a natural goalscorer.

Simple

If Eriksson needed new evidence it came in the 74th minute of Liverpool's 2-0 victory at Aston Villa.

Before they went into the lead, Crouch was presented with a simple six-yard header to open his account for his new club.

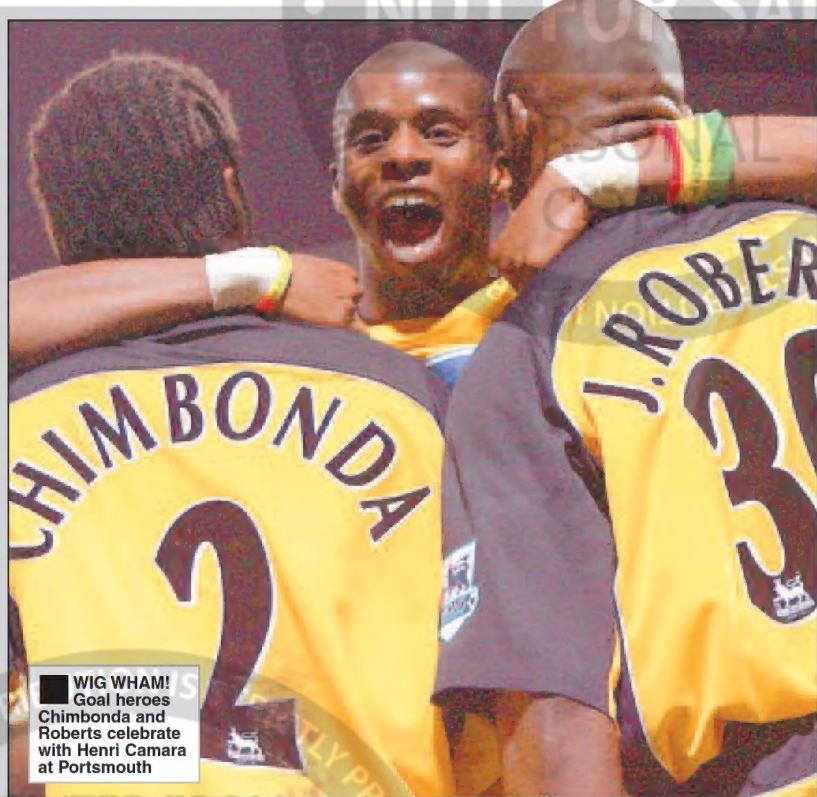
He headed without power, conviction or confidence straight at Villa goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen.

It was not the reaction of someone to put your money on in an England shirt.

wooly's

READ THE VOICE OF SPORT EVERY

STAR COMMENT



WIG WHAM!
Goal heroes
Chimbonda and
Roberts celebrate
with Henri Camara
at Portsmouth

Diego hands us best goal ever

ANY game against Argentina brings back memories of the greatest goal I have ever seen.

Diego Maradona's epic second against us at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Now seems to be the right time to recall it with the great man himself.

Here is Maradona's view of the 'Hand of God' goal and the stunning second when he ran through the entire England team.

His words prove simply that when England and Argentina come together, it is no ordinary match.

Maradona said: "I started from the middle of the pitch, on the right.

"I then stepped on the

ball, turned and sneaked between Peter Beardsley and Peter Reid.

"Then I had the goal in my sights, though I still had a few metres to go.

"I passed Terry Butcher but Terry Fenwick didn't leave my side. I was waiting for him to stand off, I was waiting to pass... the logical thing to do.

Faced

"If Fenwick had left me, I could have passed it.

"He didn't, so I faced him, then threw a dummy one way and went to the other towards the right.

"Fenwick tried so hard to close in on me, but I carried on and I had Peter

Shilton in front of me. He bought the dummy so I got to the end and I went inside.

"At the same time Butcher caught up with me and kicked me hard.

"But I didn't care. I'd just scored the goal of my life.

"It was an incredible goal. I wanted to put the whole sequence of it in stills, blown up really big above my bed. I would have put this inscription below, 'My life's best'.

"I got a lot of pleasure from the first goal as well.

"At the time I called it the 'Hand of God' goal. No it wasn't, it was the hand of Diego. It felt like pickpocketing the English.

"I don't know how I jumped so high and I stuck out my left fist behind my head. We won, we knocked England out of the World Cup and it was not just another match.

"It was more than winning a game, more than knocking England out. In a way we blamed the players for everything that had happened in the war. We were defending our flag."

FRIENDLY FIRING UP ERIKSSON

NEXT Saturday in Geneva is no ordinary friendly for England.

Sven Goran Eriksson rates it as the most important match in the World Cup build-up.

Mention the game and Eriksson puffs out his cheeks and gives an expression of excitement.

He believes beating the Argies will represent a huge boost to the team's confidence.

It is why he wants the strongest team possible with him and hopes

pull-outs from the squad he named yesterday don't wreck his plans of a vital morale-boosting performance.

Eriksson puts the win over Argentina in Japan three years ago right at the top of his achievements and he knows what another outstanding night would do at the start of the journey to Germany.

Waste

One thing is certain: he doesn't want to lose and is treating the match like a World Cup tie, rather than just a friendly.

It is also certain the England coach is treating it more seriously than Premiership managers who view these games as a waste of time, getting in the way of day-to-day business.

Most managers would be happy if England did not play a friendly again.

PRICE IS WRONG

A BIG issue with fans is the price of tickets – big player salaries mean supporters have to pay more.

Surely it's about time clubs listened to supporters.

Why don't top clubs invite a fan to meet directors once a month to discover what is happening outside the boardroom? They might be surprised.

More fans are hand-picking matches and huge gaps are appearing for less attractive games.

So why not slash prices for these games and reduce admission for kids? It makes common sense to me.

IS WOOLY RIGHT?

IS Wooly right about Wigan's impact? Text DSWOOLY followed by a space and your comments to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal network rate. Or email me on brian.woolough@ dailystar.co.uk

word

MONDAY AND SATURDAY

Wigan's wonders wake up big boys

ALL eyes were on Old Trafford yesterday but something just as significant for English football had already taken place down on the south coast. Wigan won again.

It's not a surprise any more. Football can start to take Paul Jewell and his side seriously.

Their rise to second in the table – eight wins out of their last nine matches and the best defensive record in the Premiership – is the story of the season so far.

Wonderful Wigan are doing the game a massive favour.

Far more telling than the troubles at Manchester United, the pathetic squabble between Jose Mourinho and Arsene Wenger, or England getting to the World Cup finals in Germany.

What Wigan are doing is giving hope to those who thought that, if it didn't involve Arsenal, Chelsea or Manchester United, it didn't matter.

The Lancashire outfit have made sure that fairytale do still exist and that it's not all about money.

Wigan are not poor but they have made their impact with team spirit, careful planning, organisation and outstanding buying and coaching by Jewell, who is one of the best young English managers around.

For so many reasons, we hope they continue football's tale of the

unexpected. We have been waiting for them to slip up and Portsmouth was a potential banana skin, especially following Pompey's 4-1 win at Sunderland the previous week.

But Wigan strolled it and never looked like conceding a goal.

Their confidence is high and we should start to acknowledge that here is a small-town football club who have managed to defy what has gone on in the Premiership since it changed the face of football.

The day the minnow dies will be a sad one and we were beginning to fear English football was simply being governed by the fattest cheque-book.

Money

Of course, Chelsea are likely to retain the championship and, of course, Arsenal and United will probably be right up there challenging them, but why not Wigan, too?

Surely there is not a fan out there who doesn't think what they have done has been something the game needed.

This has become more than a fluke, more than the money chairman Dave Whelan has ploughed into his dream. It is about talented people taking on the system and long may it continue. Wonderful Wigan need to stay wonderful.

unfashionable can go all the way this season. What better in the first final at the new Wembley than a real shock.

It won't be Chasetown but for a club with average gates of 80 they have enjoyed every minute of their adventure. They have made £150,000, a life-saver for a club like that. That's what the Cup is all about.

I have always supported the minnow and really hope that someone

■ FORMER Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira calls striker Ruud van Nistelrooy a coward – among other things – in his autobiography, due to be published soon.

■ I do hope Juventus and Manchester United meet in the Champions League at some point this season. Then we will find out if Vieira is right to have that opinion.

Information Station

FOOTBALL

Barclays Premiership

Everton (1) 1 Middlesbrough (0) 0
Bettison (6) 24 348
Man Utd (1) 1 Chelsea (0) 0
Fletcher (3) 67 864

Coca-Cola Championship

Cardiff (0) 0 Coventry (0) 0
Day 11,424

Lates results in Serious Football

FA Cup First Round

Bradford (0) 2 Tranmere (1) 1
Cocks 56
Windass 59 pen
Chasetown (1) 1 Oldham (1) 1
Day 23 og

Erys 31
Ait 1,997

Doncaster (1) 4 Blackpool (0) 1
Heffernan 18,72
McIndoe 53 pen, 2
Halifax (1) 1 Rushden (1) 1
Senior 45

Huddersfield (1) 4 Welling (0) 1
Booth 27,69
Schofield 50 pen
Haworth 81

Ait 5,518

Second round draw and replay dates in

Serious Football

Bank of Scotland Premier Division

Falkirk (0) 0 Celtic (2) 1
Maloney 41
McGeady 42
Hartson 69

Alt 6,459

Bell's Scottish League Challenge Cup Final

St Mirren (1) 2 Hamilton (0) 1
Lapkin 22
Sutton 80

Ait 9,612

Saturday Nationwide Conference

Kidderminster (0) 1 Exeter (0) 2
Todd 59

Scully 77

Ait 1,869

P W D L F A Pts

Grays Athletic 9 6 5 1 1 17 33

Exeter 10 10 3 3 31 15 33

Accrington S 9 9 2 4 27 22 29

York 8 8 4 3 29 19 28

Shrewsbury T 8 8 4 3 29 19 28

Morecambe 8 8 2 5 26 15 25

Halifax 7 7 4 4 20 17 25

Woking 6 6 5 4 25 18 23

Hereford 6 6 5 4 17 18 23

Doverham 6 6 5 4 19 19 20

Gravesend 5 5 4 6 20 23 19

Kidderminster 16 5 4 7 17 19 20

Canvey I 15 5 3 7 20 24 18

Alfreton 15 4 5 6 20 23 17

Aldershot 15 4 3 8 19 28 15

Burton Albion 15 4 3 8 18 27 15

Southport 15 4 3 8 19 29 15

Forest G R 15 3 5 7 14 21 14

Tamworth 15 3 4 8 17 26 14

Trawley Town 15 3 4 8 17 26 13

Scarborough 15 3 4 8 14 27 13

Conference North: Barrow 2 Moor

Green 2, Droylsden 2, Stafford 1,

Macclesfield 0, Redbridge 1, Stockport 0, Vauxhall Motors 0 Hocknell 2

South: Basingstoke 1 Newport

County 0, Bishop's Stortford 0 Lewes 3, Bognor Regis Town 0 Farnborough 1, Chelmsford 0, Colchester Utd 0

Hayes 0 Thurrock 1, St Albans 2, Eastleigh 4, Weston-super-Mare 2, Crewe 0, Chesham 0, Aylesbury 0

CRICKET

First Test Match

Brisbane: Australia 435 (R T Ponting 149, C D Collings 47-2) and 283-2 dec. (M L Hayden 118, R T Ponting 104m, V. V. S. Akash 100, M. M. Merchant 47-2) and 229-10 (B Lee 5-30, N. W. Bracken 4-48). Australia won by 379 runs.

Fifth One Day International

Ahmedabad: India 285-8 (R Dravid 103m, G. Gambhir 103, M F Maharoof 4-20) v Sri Lanka 286-5 (T M Dilshan 81m). Sri Lanka won by 5 wickets.

Fifth One Day International

Centurion Park, New Zealand 215 (L. MacKenzie 62, J. Taylor 42) v South Africa 140-5 (G C Smith 86). South Africa won by 5 wickets.

GOLF

Mizuno Classic (Seta Golf Course, Shiga, Japan) – leading final totals

(Jpn unless stated, par 72): 195 A Sorenstam (Swe) 64, 198 A Rosales (Phl) 66, 202 A. Kuroda (Jpn) 64, 203 Y. Kuroda (Jpn) 67, 204 T. Yamada (Jpn) 65, 205 T. Fujita (Jpn) 66, 206 J. Chang (Kor) 69, M. Lee (Kor) 66, K. Ichijo (Fra) 67, 204 K. Webb (Aus) 71.

SATURDAY'S SPORTWORD

ACROSS: 1 Rowthorne, 6 Donlevin, 7 Maddox, 10 Ham, 10 Levein, 12 Niall, 14 Wade, 17 Youn, 18 Irons, 19 Hastings.

DOWN: 2 Olivia, 3 Neal, 4 Ramsey, 5 Eddie, 6 Delaney, 8 Yankees, 11 Robins, 13 Rough, 15 Along, 16 Kimi.

5 FOR FUN

1 Kettering Town, 2 Colin Montgomerie, 3 Roberto Di Matteo, 4 Guilly, 5 Australia.

YOUR TURN ANSWERS

Arsenal v Sunderland: Marcus Stewart, Villa v Liverpool: Stan Collymore, Blackburn v Charlton: Brett Emerton, Fulham v Man City: Kevin Keegan, Newcastle v Birmingham: Paul Gascoigne, Portsmouth v West Ham: Steve Bruce, Robins, Evans, Middlesbrough: Colin Todd, Man United v Chelsea: Diego Forlan.

INFORMATION STATION

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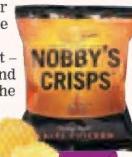
Last week we brought you a chunky collection of sporting knowledge thanks to Nobby's Crisps - the snack with a filling fact on every pack.

Readers have deluged us with their tastiest facts and given themselves the chance to win a brilliant Honda Type R by being entered in our prize draw.

Keep sending us your facts and trivia by texting TRIVIA to 88833 or email us - competition@dailystar.co.uk with NEWS FOR NOBBY'S as the subject title. You can also enter by following Nobby's link on www.dailysnack.com and watch out for Nobby's Knows every day this week.

Or solve our daily Number Cruncher below and you'll be entered for the prize draw too.

This week our theme is Fact Feast - amazing facts from the world around us. Here's a bite sized selection of the facts you've been sending in....



CZECH IT OUT

The world's biggest beer drinkers are the Czechs, guzzling 35 gallons of beer a year each. We imagine Alka Selza sales must be pretty high too...

DOSE OF KETCHUP

Ketchup was used as a medicine in the 1830s and sold as Dr. Miles Compound Extract of Tomato. It was used to cure stomach upsets.

CAN'T BE TRUE

The can opener really was invented 48 years after the tin can. We're not sure how people got into their baked beans before that....

BEWARE THE AIRBAG

Watch out all you speed freaks. Car airbags explode at 200 mph.

BRAIN WAVES

If you could harness the power of your brain you could power a ten watt light bulb. Not necessarily for very long if you're a Big Brother contestant.

THE BIG NUMBER CRUNCHER

Collect a single digit figure by choosing the correct number from our Number Cruncher, every day in the Daily Star. The whole week's questions will be repeated in Friday's column where there will be the chance to send in the correct five digit code to enter our prize draw - with the chance to win a Honda Civic Type R.

THE QUESTION

Fill in the gap. The concert that was the largest worldwide TV broadcast in history was Live...?

A. 1 B. 4 C. 8



For more information on Nobby's Crisps visit www.dailysnack.co.uk



Premium rate phone line. Texts should be no longer than 160 characters. Texts cost £1.50 plus your usual operator rate. Winners will be selected from all entries received by midnight 06/11/05. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

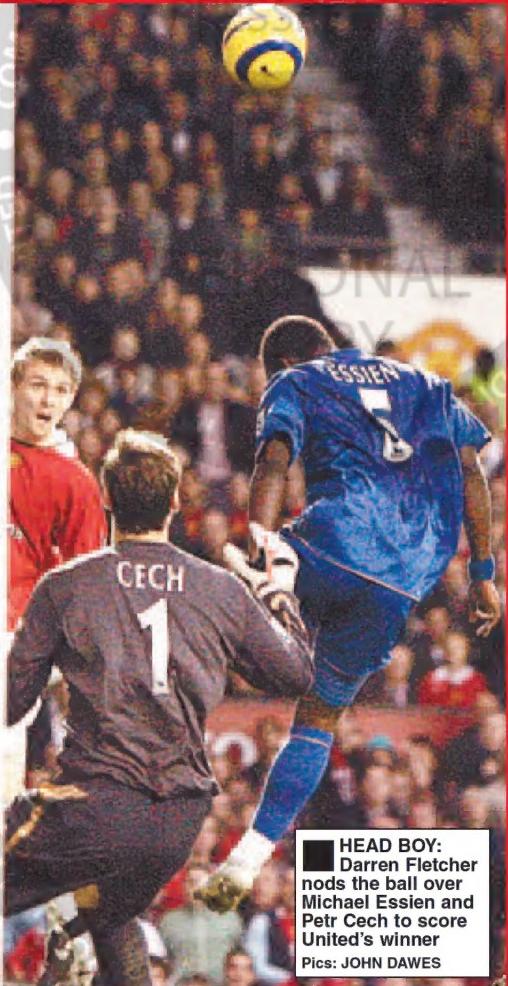
SERIOUSLY football



PREMIERSHIP CRUNCH: Keane



■ BLUE MURDER: Jose Mourinho shows his emotions as Chelsea crash at Old Trafford



■ HEAD BOY: Darren Fletcher nods the ball over Michael Essien and Petr Cech to score United's winner
Pics: JOHN DAWES

Jose's turn to suffer

SIR Alex Ferguson just about passed the test on his 19th anniversary - and now it's Jose Mourinho's turn to go on trial.

Mourinho baited Fergie before the game, saying he would expect the sack if he lost three successive matches. Well, Jose, that's two on the trot!

He also said the Premiership was not a big enough test for his champions and the Queen would call a public holiday the day Chelsea lost. Words, words and more words, but where is the action? Especially in front of goal.

Chelsea dominated the second half without looking like scoring. If you can have a mini crisis at money-bags Chelsea then this is it.

Human

'The Special One' needs to prove it once more and it will frustrate him that he must now wait almost two weeks to play again.

In the space of 11 days they have been knocked out of the Carling Cup by Charlton, beaten Blackburn, lost in the Champions League against Real Betis and now here at Old Trafford.

Not the invincible form the game has come to take for granted from them. So, Chelsea are human after all.

They discovered, as Arsenal did



WOOLY'S BIG MATCH VERDICT

last autumn, that United like ending records.

At the end of a disastrous week that infamous banned TV rant by skipper Roy Keane, United finally found the courage to hold themselves together.

The passion and pride returned, even if this was more about Chelsea's failings than United's own performance.

Fergie can be delighted with his side, especially some of those questioned by Keane.

It was Rio Ferdinand's best performance of the season and watching England coach Sven Goran Eriksson will be delighted.

It was overdue from Ferdinand and the United fans have every right to ask where it has been all season. Alan Smith, too, was big and brave in Keane's holding midfield role and Eriksson will again have been impressed.

Smith was at the heart of the defence, tackling as if his life depended on it. But will the real United turn up for the rest of the season? They must use this as a starting platform. They do not have the quality of Chelsea, yet

they proved in front of their under-pressure manager that they still have the desire.

Chelsea's defeat is, of course, what the game needed. The Blues can be beaten and they have lost in Manchester for the second successive season - last time City and now United.

Just like in Seville on Wednesday night, they ended the game searching for breaks they were not creating for themselves.

Gauge

At one stage they were lining up to score, but you never got the feeling they would equalise. It always felt like United's day.

The victory takes the spotlight away from Ferguson and he insists Chelsea's 10-point lead over them can be cut.

When the Premiership returns after the international weekend it will be interesting to gauge the reaction of both sides.

United have to step up again, while the champions need to get back to what they are good at.

They have temporarily lost their rhythm and their killer instinct in

front of goal. Add allegations that Hernan Crespo has fallen out with the manager, and a little crack might just be appearing.

It is when going wrong that you earn your money and prove your reputation. There were plenty of cracks opening up under Fergie before yesterday.

And he will be delighted with their response, a crunching Smith tackle on Asier del Horno setting the tone. This was not the United who had lost to Boro and Lille.

Whether it was the country-wide debate over their decline or Keane sitting in the directors' box, something had stirred them. Their pride damaged, United gave manager Fergie and captain Keane what they wanted.

True champions brush aside set backs like this.

We wait for Chelsea's reaction - after their first defeat in more than 40 league games. Yesterday we saw United answer some questions, now it's Chelsea's turn.

Ferguson under scrutiny? Make that Mourinho.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH

rocket lights the Blues touch paper for United heroes

FLETCH FIRED UP TO SPARK DEFIANT REDS

THE REAL Manchester United stood up to be counted at Old Trafford yesterday.

But unfortunately for Sir Alex Ferguson it took a Roy Keane video nasty for it to happen.

Fergie probably could not care less though as one of Keane's 'Famous Five' - Darren Fletcher - scored the goal which stopped the rot.

And in doing so he breathed new life into the Premiership as United ended Chelsea's 40-game unbeaten Premiership run.

José Mourinho knew the whole country wanted Chelsea to lose but nobody really expected it.

Barrage

This was hardly vintage stuff from United but it was a performance built on courage, desire and determination - all provided by Keane's public rocket up their backsides.

Fletcher scored in the 31st minute then Fergie's side withstood a second-half barrage.

It was so odd to see United hanging on for victory but that proves what a shift there has been from north to south in the last couple of years.

Referee Graham Poll's final whistle unleashed hysteria among the 67,864 crowd.

There were clenched fists and high fives from United players as though they could hardly believe the result.

Only a week ago, United were humiliated by Middlesbrough in one of the most embarrassing results of Ferguson's 19-year reign.

That prompted the injured Keane's tongue-lashing of his team-mates, who then compounded matters by losing to Lille in the Champions League.

But this performance was why there should never be a European League as the deposed champions rose to the challenge of the new kids on the block.

Trickery

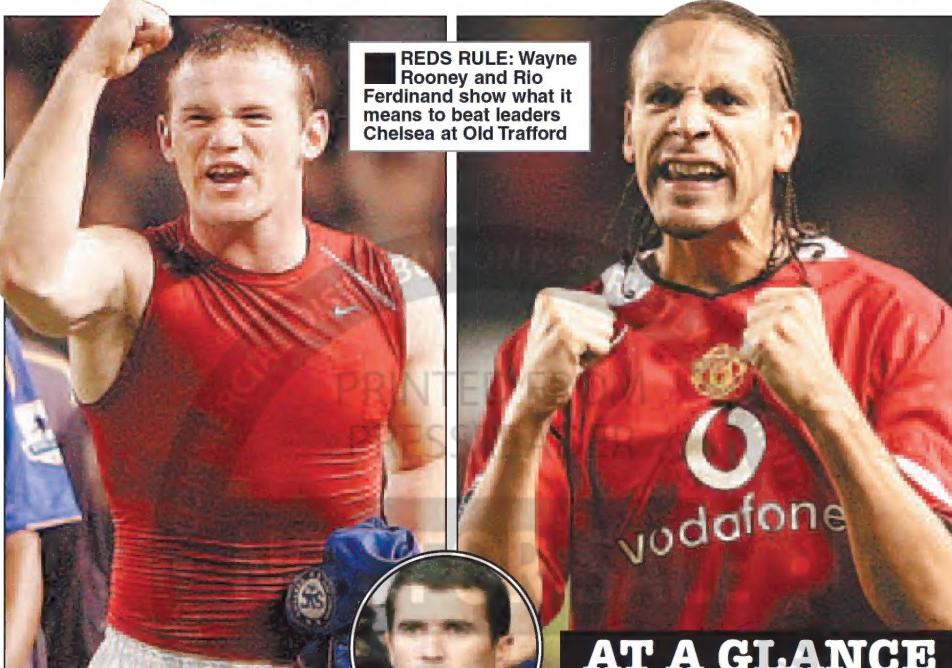
Fletch had been one of those to suffer most from Keane's brutal analysis of his colleagues' weaknesses.

The midfield veteran apparently claimed he had no idea why the young Scottish international was so highly rated north of the border.

You can imagine Fletcher's relief on scoring.

Wayne Rooney's trickery on the edge of Chelsea's area helped sweep the ball from Paul Scholes to Cristiano Ronaldo.

His deep cross was met at the back post by Fletcher, who was trying to guide the ball back



REDS RULE: Wayne Rooney and Rio Ferdinand show what it means to beat leaders Chelsea at Old Trafford

by DANNY FULLBROOK



Man United 1
Chelsea 0

WATCHING: Roy Keane

with a game in hand. Mourinho admitted Chelsea's recent blip has been down to the fact they are not under any sort of pressure at the top.

But now his side will have to react.

Arsenal came to Old Trafford last year and saw their record-breaking 49 unbeaten run stopped in its tracks. And as a result they collapsed.

Onslaught

Mourinho has vowed Chelsea will not do the same - but they have to prove it.

They should never have left Manchester empty-handed after their second-half onslaught.

Fit-again Didier Drogba had an early chance before

across the face of goal. Fortunately it looped over the head of Petr Cech and crept into the net.

William Gallas had been restored to central defence from full-back at Ricardo Carvalho's expense.

It was the first goal Gallas and John Terry had conceded together in the Premiership since March 2004, pre-Mourinho.

But it was not just Fletcher who responded to Keane's verbal volley that

was pulled from the MUTV schedules.

Other vanquished stars like Alan Smith, Rio Ferdinand and John O'Shea came up trumps.

Smith was brilliant in Keane's defensive midfield role, which was perfect timing with England boss Sven Goran Eriksson there to watch.

The win meant United jumped from ninth to third but they are still 10 points behind Chelsea

and Asier del Horno could have grabbed a goal at the far post. But as they chased the game they cranked up the heat on United.

First sub Eidur Gudjohnsen created a great chance for Damien Duff but the Irishman miscued in front of goal, and then Drogba fell over. The Ivory

AT A GLANCE

MAN UTD: Van der Sar, O'Shea, Ferdinand, Brown, Silvestre, Fletcher, Smith, Scholes, Rooney, Van Nistelrooy (Park 82), Ronaldo. Subs: Howard, Richardson, Bardley, Rossi.

CHELSEA: Cech, Gallas, Terry, Del Horno (C Cole 78), Essien (Gudjohnsen 55), Makkelie, Lampard, J Cole (Wright-Phillips 74), Drogba, Duff. Subs: Ricardo Carvalho, Cudicini.

REFEREE: G Poll.

PINT RATING:



FIVE KEY MOMENTS:

1: Michael van der Sar makes a good save from Didier Drogba in opening stages.

17: Wayne Rooney sets up Paul Scholes whose volley flies inches wide.

31: Darren Fletcher's looping header finds the net for United's winner.

50: Damien Duff misses great chance and Drogba slips over in front of goal.

70: Michael Essien misses from close range with a difficult volley.

CRACKER: Alan Smith - a disciplined and brave performance at the heart of United's midfield.

SLACKER: Michael Essien - finally ran out of steam after good start to Chelsea career and could not handle the big game.

YOUNG TURK: Michael Ballack scored United's 90th-minute winner when they beat Chelsea 2-1 at Old Trafford in January 2003?

Fletcher scored, and Asier del Horno could have grabbed a goal at the far post. But as they chased the game they cranked up the heat on United.

First sub Eidur Gudjohnsen created a great chance for Damien Duff but the Irishman miscued in front of goal, and then Drogba fell over. The Ivory

Coast hitman then saw his shot blocked, only for it to run perfectly into the path of Frank Lampard but Edwin van der Sar saved brilliantly.

United have far from solved their problems, and Chelsea are hardly in crisis but at least it is on again once again in the Premiership.

Fergie swears by his braves

From Back Page
play Chelsea it is always a big game. For me we were one.

"We knew we were coming under the cosh in the second half and that we sat back.

"But the difference between winning and losing would have been enormous.

"The young players have been carrying the mantle for weeks. Their spirit and keenness to play was fantastic.

"Losing to Lille was not good enough. We had to pick ourselves up from that and we have done it."

But Chelsea boss José Mourinho insisted his side deserved to win and claimed there is no way United will win the title this season.

Mourinho was proud of his team although he felt they should have won after watching them waste a host of chances in the second half.

He said: "In the second half we were far the better team and we did not deserve to lose, but it was a fair game between two good teams.

"But it was not a fair result. United were in front and defending with everything they had and great spirit and a lot of effort.

"Arsenal lost here last year and collapsed. That will not happen to us, especially the way the team has performed.

Future

"United have not produced enough to be champions of England again. There may be a better future for the club and they may not lose as many points but today we showed why we are champions and why we are top of the League."

Fergie didn't single out individuals, but Man of the Match Alan Smith admitted Roy Keane was the inspiration for this dramatic victory.

Smith was one of those picked out by skipper Keane for a roasting over recent performances.

But after Darren Fletcher's 31st-minute header gave United a precious victory, the former Leeds man said: "The manager has never doubted us and we have never doubted ourselves.

"But sometimes we have to be reminded what it means to play for Manchester United.

"Everybody knows who that came from. We received criticism and rightly so."

"A club like this should not get beaten like we did at Middlesbrough last week. We should be far better than that."

"The criticism was not just from Roy Keane but he is a proud person and he was upset and told us exactly what he thought.

"From the manager right through the players we have put on a good performance today."

Woody KO for Sven

■ by DANNY FULLBROOK

JONATHAN WOODGATE was forced out of the England squad – before it was officially announced.

The Real Madrid centre-half was due to be named in Sven Goran Eriksson's squad last night for the game against Argentina in Geneva next Saturday.

Thigh

But the injury-jinxed Woodgate was axed after he limped out of the game against Real Zaragoza with a thigh injury just a couple of hours before the squad was revealed.

The defender pulled up clutching his left hamstring and signalled to the bench that he could not continue.

The new blow raises doubts over the 25-year-old

Turn to Page 49

B0 *** KS TO YOU L0T



PREMIERSHIP TOP FOUR

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Chelsea | 12 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 28 | 7 | 31 |
| Wigan | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 5 | 25 |
| Man Utd | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 11 | 21 |
| Arsenal | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 8 | 20 |

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Fergie's TV blast as United end Chelsea run

■ by DANNY FULLBROOK

UNDER-FIRE Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson hit back at his critics last night.

After United's battling performance ended Chelsea's 40-game unbeaten run, Ferguson unbottled weeks of stress and said all the stick he and his side had received in the week was "*****".

He had been under the spotlight after a 4-1 drubbing at Middlesbrough followed by a Champions League shocker away to Lille.

Notice

But when asked about the stick, Fergie blasted: "That is all b*****s. I once went 13 games without winning and I didn't take any notice of the criticism and got on with the job."

"The crowd were magnificent and unbelievable and if they are like that every week we cannot let them down. When you

Turn to Page 51



DELIGHTED UNITED:
Darren Fletcher salutes his winner and boss Sir Alex Ferguson punches the air at the final whistle
Pics: JOHN DAWES

INSIDE: FOOTBALL'S NO.1 PULLOUT

SERIOUSLY
football